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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
LANSING

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Broadband Authority Loan Expanding Service in Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Eaton Rapids, Lansing, Howell, Brighton and Birmingham

LANSING --Today the Michigan Broadband Development Authority (MBDA) announced it has closed on a \$510,204 loan to PCS Broadband, LLC (a fixed wireless broadband Internet service provider based in Jackson, Michigan) to expand its operations in several Michigan cities.

The MBDA's loan will help PCS build the necessary infrastructure to offer their broadband service in the cities of Battle Creek, Birmingham, Brighton, Eaton Rapids, Fenton, Howell, Jackson, Kalamazoo and Lansing. PCS Broadband currently provides high-speed Internet service in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Dexter, Farmington, Livonia, Southfield and Wixom. PCS Broadband specializes in service to small and medium-sized businesses in areas where incumbent cable and/or DSL coverage is weak or non-existent.

"In Michigan, Broadband is about making sure that our businesses and consumers are moving at the speed of technology," said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. "Businesses in this state must have access to all the resources they need to remain competitive in the global economy."

According to Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services Director David C. Hollister, high-speed Internet access is a necessity, not a luxury. "Small and medium-sized businesses are the lifeblood of our state's economic engine and we must do all we can to retain these enterprises and help them grow. This investment will help provide a key resource to such businesses in these cities," said Hollister.

James Butler, Vice President of the MBDA, stressed the importance of making financing available to Michigan entrepreneurs like those heading up PCS. "We remain focused on providing funding opportunities for companies that might otherwise find difficulty in securing loans for this purpose. The traditional telecommunications industry is still rebounding from the downturn in the national economy and it is small providers like PCS that are going to lead the expansion of service to all parts of our state."

PCS Broadband President Kevin McLaughlin highlighted the importance of this project for these regions of the state. "The MBDA has been a vital tool in not only helping us to secure the necessary funding we sought for expansion, but it also gives the small and medium sized enterprises in these cities the knowledge that they will have access to the technology needed to operate at a competitive price. This loan happens to be advantageous not only for PCS Broadband, but also for the residents of Michigan," McLaughlin said.

The MBDA was created to help the state attract more private sector investment in high-speed Internet infrastructure, and to increase demand for and utilization of broadband services. It does so by offering 1) low-cost loans to telecommunications companies willing to make such investments and 2) by offering organizations or "broadband users" low-cost financing for the acquisition of hardware/software applications that will improve or increase their use of broadband service. More information about the Michigan Broadband Development Authority and its programs can be found at www.BroadbandAuthority.org

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